

December  
2011

Franklin Area  
Chamber of Commerce

# The Business Connection



1259 Liberty Street  
Franklin, PA 16323

(814)432-5823

[www.franklinareachamber.org](http://www.franklinareachamber.org)

Lynn Cochran - *Executive Director*  
Jodi Lewis - *Executive Assistant*  
Leigh Protivnak - *Communication Specialist*

Open Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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## 2012 Marketing Opportunities

We have launched several new low and no-cost programs

Keep the  
*Cheer*  
Here

Proud to support  
**the350project.net**

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Your 2012 Marketing Opportunities packets will be arriving in the mail this month. Be sure to look through the materials for many great ways to expand your customer base through the Franklin Area Chamber. A new service we are offering for 2012 is helping members get signed up with The 350 Project, a program created by Marketing consultant Cinda Baxter to help bolster good will and sales for small businesses. The 350 Project launched a new iPhone app that helps users find small businesses wherever they are travelling. With the wide array of boutiques and unique small businesses in the area, we would like to see a large representation of businesses throughout the region on the 350 Project site and app. There is no

cost to sign up. Just let us know you're interested by filling out the form inside your marketing packet. Supporting The 350 Project is just one of many ways the Chamber helps support small businesses. With the holiday season upon us, we would like to remind all of our members to support your fellow members and shop locally for all your gift-giving needs.

## Membership Showcase



Wood Shack

## Victorian City Art & Frame



# Welcome, New Members

The following new members joined the Franklin Area Chamber in November. Please help us welcome them to the Chamber and remember to consider local shopping and member to member business!

## Transition to Adulthood Program

The Transition to Adulthood Program was developed to meet a service gap for young adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to help them obtain employment.

Contact: Alan McKain  
1341 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA 16323  
P: (814)437-9722 F: (814)437-9062  
E: alan.mckain@stmichaelsharbour.com  
www.transitiontoadulthood.org

## Bossa Nova Café & Roastery

The new American-Brazilian-style coffee shop and roastery has opened its doors in downtown Franklin featuring freshly roasted coffee from around the globe, Brazilian pastries and music.

Contact: Gabriela Frederick  
1236 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA 16323  
P: (814)518-5267  
Email: hello@bossanovacoffee.com  
Find them on Facebook

## Changing Times Telephone Service

Changing Times has been providing complete business communication systems and services throughout Northwest PA since 1983. They offer telephone systems, cabling and fiber optics.

Contact: Rod Adams  
135 Ranch Street, Seneca, PA 16346  
P: (814)678-2884 F: (814)678-2581  
Email: rod@changingtimestelephone.com  
www.changingtimestelephone.com

## ComDoc

ComDoc is a distributor of document solutions headquartered in Akron, OH, with locations in 12 markets throughout four states. They provide leading edge technology to their customers.

Contact: Don McLean  
6790 Belmont Ave, Girard, OH 44420  
P: (330)288-5105 F: (330)539-4754  
Email: dmclean@comdoc.com  
Web: www.comdoc.com

## Thank You, Renewing Members

Hy-Tone Cleaners, 41 years  
Victorian City Art & Frame, 18 years  
Highland Gas Co., 17 years  
Seneca Medical Center, 17 years  
Wilson, Thompson & Cisek, 16 years  
Franklin Fine Arts Council, 16 years  
Karns Produce, 13 years  
**Spanky's Tobacco World**, 13 years  
Bella Cucina, 10 years  
Super 8 Motel, 10 years  
Freedom Wireless, Inc., 7 years

Second Foundation Consulting, 7 years  
Montgomery Apiaries, 7 years  
West Park Rehab, 7 years  
AmaZing Foods Catering Co. & Café, 5 years  
Liberty Street Antiques, 5 years  
HOLeY Jeans, 4 years  
Lake Tool, Inc., 4 years  
**The Bistro by Pizza Joe's**, 3 years  
Allegheny Tool & Supply, 2 years  
Erie Homes for Children & Adults, 2 years  
Coppertones, LLC, 2 years

# Chamber News

## Business After Hours

*Chamber Network Advantage*

Nearly 200 of our members turned out to kick off the holiday season and see what great gifts are available right here in Venango County at The Quality Inn & Conference Center. Thank you to Dale Woodard Gent, The Quality Inn, and The Franklin Retail & Business Association for sponsoring this fabulous event ever year.



Quality Inn & Conference Center

Don't miss out on one of your best Chamber benefits!  
Call (814) 432-5823 to RSVP for our upcoming mixers.

December 7: **Cross Creek Resort**, 5-7 p.m. *Joint mixer with Venango, Titusville and Meadville Area Chambers.*

December 14: **First National Bank, Fezell's Shop 'n Save**, 5-7 p.m.

January 26: **Bossa Nova Café & Roastery**, 5-7 p.m.

## Refer a friend and earn rewards

Has being a Chamber member helped your business? Do you think membership can help a fellow business owner? Tell them about how Chamber membership has helped you grow your business, and we'll give something back to you. For every two new members that list you as a referral on their application, we will give you a free newsletter insert including printing (That's a \$115 value!) in the newsletter of your choice. Make sure to tell the new member to list your name as their referral source on their application to get credit. For more details, call (814)432-5823.



### Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce

We offer solutions to meet your employee benefits needs through ChamberChoice!

For more information, contact ChamberChoice at 1-800-377-3539.



### 2011 Punch Perks

Be sure to turn in your PunchPerks! cards with six or more punches before the end of the year to claim your free email blast coupon.



# On the Agenda...

## Christmas House Tours

Venango County Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas House Tours on December 2, 3 and 4. The hours for the tours will be Friday, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m.. Tickets, in the form of the tour program, are \$15 and are available for purchase at the Society house located at 301 South Park Street, Franklin, PA.



There will be five historic houses on the tour this year, all decorated for the Christmas season. The houses may be toured at any time and in any order during the stated times throughout the weekend. Refreshments will be available at the Society during tour times, and there will be several Christmas collections on display as well.

For more information, please contact Venango County Historical Society at 814-437-2275 or [vchistory@conline.net](mailto:vchistory@conline.net).

## Guest Artists at Victorian City

Victorian City Art & Frame has introduced extended hours and will host guest artists every Thursday evening from 5-7 p.m. The schedule for December is as follows:

December 1, *Stephen Leccia*

December 8, *Karen DiPasquale*

December 15, *Rachel Renaudin*

December 22, *John Manders*

For details, call Kyla at (814)437-9509.

## December Shows at Barrow-Civic Theatre

Barrow-Civic Theatre will present two shows in December to celebrate the Christmas season:

A Christmas Story

December 2, 7:30 p.m.

December 3, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 9, 7:30 p.m.

December 10, 7:30 p.m.

December 11, 2 p.m.

**Handel's Messiah**

December 17, 7:30 p.m.

December 18, 2 p.m.



For tickets, visit [www.barrowtheatre.com](http://www.barrowtheatre.com) or call (814)437-3440

## Member Events

FoxTales

Saturdays, *live music*, 9 p.m.

December 3, *Mark G.*

December 10, *Mike Lendyak*

December 17, *Fred Glatz*

[www.foxtalespub.com](http://www.foxtalespub.com)

The Bricks of Franklin

Mondays, *Kids eat free*, 5 p.m.

Wednesdays, *Trivia Night*, 8 p.m.

Fridays, *Karaoke*, 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays, *Live DJ*, 9:30 p.m.

[www.thebricksfranklin.com](http://www.thebricksfranklin.com)

The Commons at Franklin

Mondays, *.35 wings*

Tuesday, *Family Buffet*

Sunday, *Brunch Buffet*

[www.thecommonsatfranklin.com](http://www.thecommonsatfranklin.com)

Bella Cucina

Wednesdays, *Ladies Night*

Thursdays, *International Night*

[www.bellacucinapa.com](http://www.bellacucinapa.com)

French Creek Tavern at the Quality Inn & Conference Center

Thursdays, *Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

Fridays, *AYCE Beer Battered Fish*, 5 p.m.

Saturday, *Prime Rib Night*, 5 p.m.

The Allegheny Grille

Wednesdays, *2 for \$40 evenings*

M-F, *Early Bird Specials*, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

[www.visitfoxburg.com](http://www.visitfoxburg.com)

Deer Creek Winery

2nd Tuesday of each month, *Grape Bunch Club* - discounts door prizes & samples at all locations!

[www.deercreekwine.com](http://www.deercreekwine.com)

**Lona's Restaurant & Pub**

M-TH, *Early Bird Specials*, 2-4:30 p.m.

Bossa Nova Café & Roastery

Fridays, *Open Mic Night*, 7-9 p.m.

*Full schedule online at [franklinareachamber.org](http://franklinareachamber.org)*

# Member to Member News

## New Online Real Estate and Appraisal Courses available

Keystone Community Education Council is pleased to announce its new partnership with McKissock, one of the premier providers of online real estate and appraisal courses.

**The course has everything you need: updated, current and engaging. You'll find it's stress-free and it's a breeze to navigate. There's no travel or rearranging your schedule. They offer the flexibility to fit your required courses and mandatory hours into your busy life.**

You get the very best state-approved courses, outstanding instructors and course authors in every industry. Every course gives you what you need to meet requirements. To browse courses, visit <http://www.mckissock.com/MP/CookiesBlocked.htm?PartnershipID=>.

## Gary Svetz awarded at FORUM

Gary Svetz of Svetz Consulting Services was awarded a full scholarship to attend the 29th annual Entrepreneurship Education FORUM in November for his leadership in bringing entrepreneurship education to the schools and to regional adult communities. He was also given an "Entrepreneurship 101 Award" for outstanding leadership in the field of business creativity and entrepreneurship from the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education. The Consortium is a national membership association of 95 organizations that advocate entrepreneurship education as a lifelong learning process and provide programs for youth and adults. At the FORUM, teachers shared ideas for events in support of entrepreneurs.

## Hagan employees certified

Hagan Business Machines of Meadville employees Brent Gaidosh, Richard Reist, David Snedden, Kurt Crawford, Jay Verno, Matt Larson, Jeanne Straw, Julie Sutton, and Charlie Yeager have successfully completed Toshiba's Lean Managed Print Services Sales Professional Certification Program. All participants gained the knowledge and skill needed to identify the business requirements necessary to successfully provide MPS basic services to small businesses. **Hagan's PrintSmarter MPS program provides a business with toner, parts and service for their entire printer fleet, regardless of make or model.** Hagan's MPS Program can cut costs, enhance productivity and reduce energy consumption. For more on how they can help you, call (814)724-4601.

## Amanda Rodgers Photography has moved

Amanda Rodgers Photography has moved to a new studio on Liberty Street in downtown Franklin. The studio is located below Pink Champagne Cupcakery at 1252 Liberty Street. To book your photo shoot or to find out more about Amanda Rodgers' services, call (814)671-5909 or visit [www.amandarodgersphotography.com](http://www.amandarodgersphotography.com).



## Freedom Wireless store opening in downtown Franklin

Just in time for Christmas - A new Verizon Wireless premium store will be open for business just in time for your Holiday shopping. The store will be located at 1243 Liberty St. in historic downtown Franklin, Pa. This location was formally occupied by Uncle Louie G's Ice Cream Shop. The new location is owned and operated by Express Business Services dba Freedom Wireless and will be a Verizon Wireless Premium location. The store opening is scheduled for early in December.

# Membership Showcase

## Wood Shack

Our region is home to a variety of retail businesses from the traditional downtown stores to rural shopping centers, but more and more home based businesses are popping up throughout the area. Opening a business on your own property might not work for everyone, but it allows some business owners added flexibility to chase their dreams while still maintaining their primary careers. The off-the-beaten-path locations can also create a unique experience for the shoppers.

Wood Shack, owned by John and Bonnie Yeager, opened in July offering primitive crafts and woodworking on Patchel Run Road in Cooperstown.

The Yeagers began woodworking in the 80s and selling their products at Applefest.

They got a lot of exposure there and many customers came back to ask them to custom make gifts for them. The special requests led to making a much larger variety of items including bookshelves, cabinets, gun cabinets, glider, quilt racks and more. They sold their products at other stores for a while, but the overhead forced them to raise prices beyond what they wanted to

charge, so they decided to open their own store.

Last winter John and his son built a wood shop in the Yeagers' back



Clockwise from top: John Yeager at his work station, Look for the Wood Shack sign on Patchel Run, inside Wood Shack



yard where John can do all of his woodworking and Bonnie can do the painting and arrangements. The retail store is located in the front of the shop. They make some products from their own designs, towel racks and shelves, candle holders and larger items like cabinets, and order patterns for other popular items like Steelers helmet bird-

houses and baseball glove, bat and ball holders. The store also carries candles, Amish made rod iron items and purses handmade by Bonnie.

Wood Shack gets a few walk-in customers, but the majority of their business comes from word of mouth.

The store is a short drive from Franklin and is open after business hours to accommodate the Yeagers' own work schedules. He is employed at Franklin Industries and she works for the Visiting Nurses Association. They would eventually like to quit their day jobs and focus on the store full time, but until then, they will continue to run the

store from 4 -8 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by to see them before Christmas for your gift-

giving needs. If you'd like more information, or to place a custom order, call John and Bonnie at (814) 374-4700 or email wood-shack@hotmail.com.

**Wood Shack**  
 2414 Patchel Run Road  
 Franklin, PA 16323  
 P: (814) 374-4700  
 Email: wood-shack@hotmail.com  
 Find them on Facebook!

# Membership Showcase

## Victorian City Art & Frame

Kyla Mazurkewiz has joined the ranks of young entrepreneurs making their way in downtown Franklin when she took over ownership of Victorian City Art & Frame on November 1.

**Art is in Kyla's blood.** Her grandmother was an artist and her parents own a frame shop in California. Having her own shop was an idea she had in the back of her head for a long time, but she never thought it would really happen. "This is a dream for me," she said.

Five years ago, a job opportunity brought Kyla and her husband Mark to the area and fate landed her in a position at the same company as former owner of Victorian City, Scott McCray. The two bonded over framing stories and she began helping out during the Christmas rush and when Scott needed days off.

Eventually, it made sense to groom Kyla to take over the store. Scott had owned the shop since 1994. "He's been here 17 years. He was ready to move on and I was ready to take over," Kyla said. Scott will continue to work with Kyla to smooth the transition through the Christmas season.

Although she enjoys photography, Kyla does not consider herself an artist. What she likes most is working with the frames to really finish off a work of art by choosing the right frame to showcase a piece so that it doesn't end up in a drawer

somewhere, but is something to be proudly displayed.

She plans to continue the tradition and build on the reputation Victo-



rian City has earned over the past 17 years, but like any new owner, she will bring her own personality to life within the shop.

A few changes have already been **made under Kyla's ownership:** a new logo has been unveiled; a seating area has been added; new paint adorns the walls; new hanging systems for artwork have been installed; and smaller items such as hand-painted trivets and photo cards have been added to the inventory so that every shopper can come away with something.

While many of her customers are local residents, she sees quite a few visitors from Ohio or Pittsburgh with cabins in the area looking for local photographs. Eventually, she will work toward making the shop a showcase of artwork featuring images of Northwest Pennsylvania. She will continue to frame pieces



^ Victorian City Art & Frame  
 < Owner Kyla Mazurkewiz

that customers bring in, and is always looking for new artists to display and sell their work inside the store.

Kyla has also added some special events to the calendar. She is staying open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and hosting guest artists inside the shop. Future events include wine and cheese open houses, photography competitions and classes. You can stay up on all of the happenings at Victorian City through their new Facebook page.

Stop by the shop and welcome Kyla any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, 10 a. to 7 p.m. Thursday, or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Bring your own art for custom framing or browse the beautiful selections available in the store.

**Victorian City Art & Frame**  
 1273 Liberty Street, Suite 1  
 Franklin, PA 16323  
 P: (814) 437-9509

Email: [victoriancityart@gmail.com](mailto:victoriancityart@gmail.com)  
 Find them on Facebook

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**Franklin Area  
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*Serving our members since 1913*

**30th Annual Applefest®!**  
October 5-7, 2012

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be considered an endorsement of the  
Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce  
or the Board of Directors.*

Make a commitment this year:  
Buy from a Chamber Member!!!  
Member to Member Business

## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER

- ◆ Dec 2-4...Christmas House Tours sponsored by the Venango County Historical Society. Call (814)437-2275 for details and tickets.
- ◆ Dec 2, 3, 9, 10, 11...A Christmas Story at The Barrow-Civic Theatre.
- ◆ Dec 2...Three bands, one cover charge at the Bricks of Franklin, 10 p.m. 21 and over.
- ◆ Dec 3...Sweet Treats & Holiday Bazaar at The Oil City YWCA, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Dec 3...Irish Christmas Dinner Show at The Arlington Hotel featuring Cahal Dunne, 5:30 p.m. (814)678-3017.
- ◆ Dec 4...Conservation Hall of Fame Induction, 7 p.m., Clarion University-Venango Campus. (814)676-4474.
- ◆ Dec 6...Clarion Holiday Inn will present its annual Parade of Trees, 4:30 p.m. RSVP (814)226-8850.
- ◆ Dec 8...BAH Mixer, 5-7 p.m., Cross Creek Resort
- ◆ Dec 10...Breakfast with Santa, 9 a.m. Clarion Holiday Inn.
- ◆ Dec 10...Pottery Event at Victorian City Art & Frame, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Dec 11...Venango Museum Sunday Afternoon Concerts, 3 p.m.
- ◆ Dec 14...BAH Mixer, First National Bank, Sponsored by First National & Fezell's Shop 'n Save, 5-7 p.m.
- ◆ Dec 15...Venango Museum Card Party fundraiser, noon
- ◆ Dec 16...Cluricaun will perform live at The Commons at Franklin, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Dec 17 & 18...Handel's Messiah at Barrow-Civic Theatre. 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 437-3440.
- ◆ Dec 18...Clarion Dulcimer Club live at DeBence Antique Music World, 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Dec 25...Merry Christmas! Our office will be closed Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26.
- ◆ Dec 31...Happy New Year! Keep an eye out for New Year's Eve celebrations in our weekly email blasts.

Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year to all our  
members and  
your families!



Wishing you all a safe and happy  
holiday season!